

REMARKS

Claims 1-18 are pending, and claims 1, 8, 12 and 17 are independent.

Claims 1-18 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102 (e) as being anticipated by Enomoto (U.S. Pat. No. 6,324,345 B1). Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection.

Enomoto discloses a photographic film processing system, which performs a pre-scan and fine scan on an image. The pre-scan image data is stored in a pre-scan memory and the fine scan data is stored in a fine scan memory. A conditions setting subsection 82 uses the stored pre-scan data to generate correction conditions which are applied to the pre-scan data and the fine-scan data. See Col. 21, lines 1-3. The correction conditions are determined by performing various operations on the pre-scan data including density histograms, calculating gray balance tables for adjustment of brightness and contrast correction; and calculation of various characteristics. See Col. 21, lines 5-17. The adjustment amounts for the operations are entered manually through the use of keys. See Col. 21, lines 18-22.

The use of the pre-scan data as a basis for generating correction conditions is further supported by Fig. 7. As shown in Fig. 7, the pre-scan data is input to the condition setting subsection 82 and the output of the key correcting subsection 84 and parameter coordinating

subsection 86 is input to the image processing subsection 74 which performs to the fine scan data processing.

Due to Enomoto's use of the pre-scan data to generate the correction conditions for the fine scan data, Enomoto does not disclose, "analyzing both data of a preset area of the original image for both the prescanned data and the fine scanned data to calculate image characteristic values of the prescanned data and the fine scanned data of said preset area," as recited in part by claim 1, and, "fine scan analysis means for analyzing fine scanned data of the preset area of said original image to calculate an image characteristic value thereof," as recited in part by claim 8. Additionally, Enomoto does not disclose "generating a correction condition by processing the first image data and the second image data," as recited in part by claim 12, and also "a correction condition setting subsection adapted to compare image data from the first scan and the second scan and develop a correction condition such that the first scan data and the second scan data match," as recited in part by claim 17.

Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that claims 1, 8, 12 and 17 are allowable over the prior art. Regarding dependent claims 2-7, 9-11, 13-16 and 18, these claims are allowable for at least the reasons of their corresponding independent claims. Therefore, Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of this rejection.

CONCLUSION

In view of the above amendments and remarks, reconsideration of the rejection and allowance of claims 1-18 is respectfully requested.

If the Examiner believes, for any reason, that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to contact the Jayne Saydah (Reg. No. 48,796) at (703) 205-8000, in the Washington, D.C. area.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

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